Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: AREL: NEW DC RESEARCH FACILITY

- 1. GROUP OF PROMINENT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC SENATORS HAS FOUNDED RESEARCH ORGANIZATION TO HELP PARTY DEAL WITH ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC, AND OTHER TECHNICAL QUESTIONS. FIFTEEN FOUNDING MEMBERS OF NEW FACILITY, CALLED AREL (AGENZIA DI RICERCHE E LEGISLAZIONE), INCLUDE UMBERTO AGNELLI, (STOCK EXCHANGE PRESIDENT) URBANO ALETTI, (ECONOMIST) NINO ANDREATTA, AND TREASURY MINISTER GAETANO STAMMATI.
- 2. RESEARCH INITIATIVE WAS DESCRIBED TO US AS LONG AGO AS LAST JULY BY MILAN STOCK EXCHANGE PRESIDENT SE. URBANO ALETTI, OF MILAN DISTRICT, WHO APPEARS TO BE MAIN PROMOTER OF IDEA. HE TOLD US DECEMBER 29 ABOUT PROGRESS SO FAR AND GAVE US BROCHURE DESCRIBING AGENCY (TO BE POUCHED) WHICH HAS FAINT DESIGN OF CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATURE REFERENCE SERVICE ABOUT IT.
- 3. ALETTI SAID AGENCY'S FUNCTION IS TO PROVIDE DC PARLIAMENT-ARIANS AND OTHERS WITH TECHNICAL AND ANALYTICAL EXPERTISE NECESSARY TO DRAFT EFFECTIVE LEGISLATION. HE ARGUED THAT LACK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF EXACT KNOWLEDGE OFTEN LED TO LEGISLATION THAT FAILED IN ITS PURPOSE OR WAS UNWORKEABLE. AGENCY WOULD BE SIMILAR TO PCI'S ECONOMIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATION CESPE BUT WOULD BE BROADER-RANGING AND, HOPEFULLY, MORE PROFESSIONAL. ALETTI SAID AGENCY MUST BE KEPT LEAN AND RESEARCH WORK CONTRACTED WITH ONLY FIRST RATE PEOPLE. DIRECTOR HAD NOT YET BEEN NAMED.

4. ALETTI STRESSED THAT MONEY WAS NOT PROBLEM FOR NEW FACILITY. FIAT AND OTHER ITALIAN COMPANIES WERE SUBSCRIBERS TO TUNE OF SEVERAL MILLION LIRE EACH (AND THEY IN TURN HAD ACCESS TO PART OF AGENCY'S PRODUCT). NOR WAS THERE ANY CONFLICT WITH DC LEADERSHIP. HE AND OTHERS HAD BRIEFED ZACCAGNINI FULLY ON INITIATIVE AND ASSURED HIM PARTICIPANTS DID NOT MEAN TO START NEW DC FACTION BUT WANTED TO SERVE ENTIRE PARTY. PROBLEM AT THIS POINT SAID ALETTI, WAS HOW TO ASSEMBLE COMPETENT RESEARCHERS AND GET THEM WORKING ON PROJECTS OF REAL INTEREST TO PARTY. HE MENTIONED IMPROVING PARLIAMENTARY STAFFING, IMPROVEMENT OF PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE IN LOMBARDY, AND MAINTENANCE OF FORESTS AND NATURAL PRESERVES AS EXAMPLES OF APPROPRIATE SUBJECTS. FINA

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